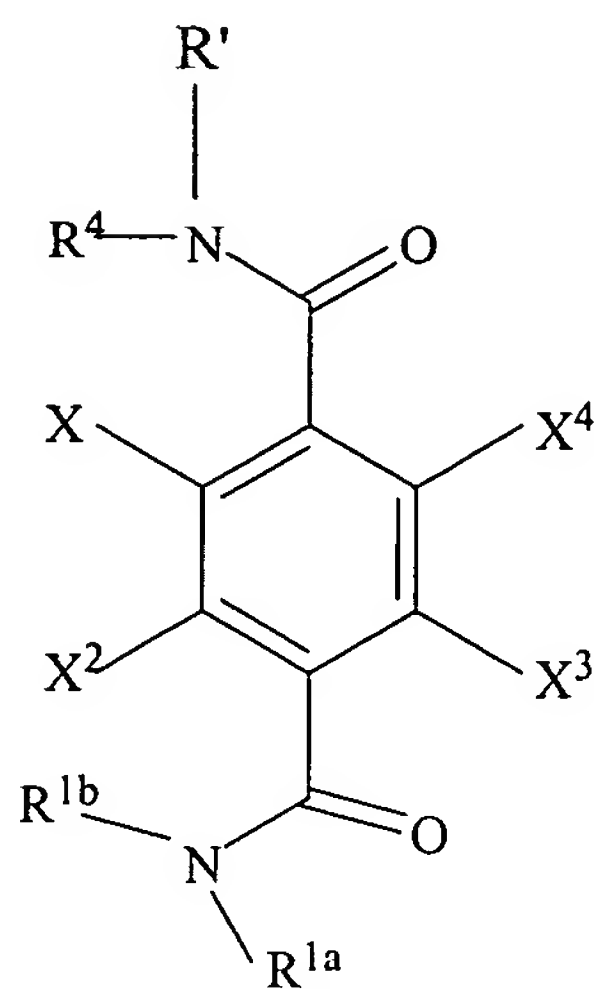


In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A compound or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the formula:



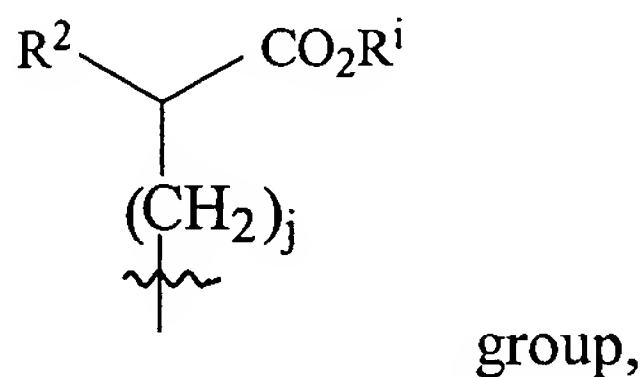
I

where X is H, halogen (F, Cl, Br, I), R, OR, SR or NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>d</sup>;

X<sup>2</sup>, X<sup>3</sup> and X<sup>4</sup> are each independently selected from H, halogen, OH, R<sup>e</sup> or OR<sup>e</sup>,

R<sup>4</sup> is H, an unsubstituted or substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl or alkene, or an unsubstituted or substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene amine;

R' is H, an unsubstituted or substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl or alkene, an unsubstituted or substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene amine, or a



group,

where R<sup>i</sup> is H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; j is 0, 1 or 2;

$R^2$  is independently H, an unsubstituted or substituted hydrocarbon, an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy, unsubstituted or substituted ester, an unsubstituted or substituted alkanol, an unsubstituted or substituted alkanoic acid, an unsubstituted or substituted thioester, an unsubstituted or substituted thioether, an unsubstituted or substituted amine, an unsubstituted or substituted mono- or dialkylamide, an substituted or unsubstituted alkylene amide, an unsubstituted or substituted alkyleneamine; or

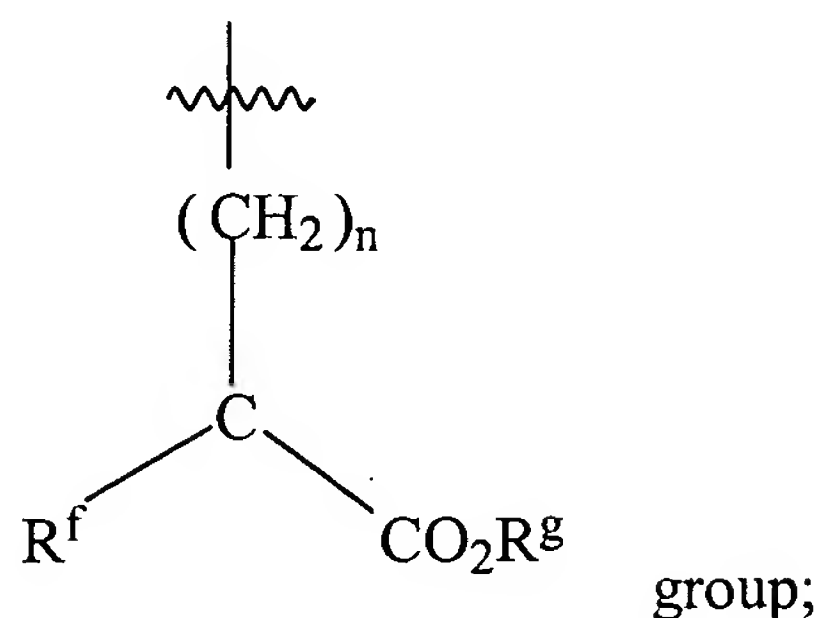
$R'$  together with the nitrogen atom to which  $R'$  is attached form an amino acid residue;

$R$  is H, an unsubstituted or substituted  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl or acyl group, an unsubstituted or substituted aryl, heteroaryl, alkylene aryl or alkylene heteroaryl group;

$R^c$  and  $R^d$  are independently H,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkanol or a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  acyl group with the proviso that if one of  $R^c$  or  $R^d$  is an acyl group, the other of  $R^c$  or  $R^d$  cannot also be an acyl group;

$R^e$  is an unsubstituted or substituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl or acyl group, or an unsubstituted or substituted aryl or alkylene aryl group;

$R^{1a}$  and  $R^{1b}$  are each independently H, unsubstituted or substituted  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl or alkene, ~~an unsubstituted or substituted aryl or alkylene aryl group~~, a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylene amine which is optionally substituted with one or two  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl groups, a



Where  $R^g$  is H or  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl;

$n$  is 0, 1 or 2; and

$R^f$  is H, an unsubstituted or substituted hydrocarbon, an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy, an unsubstituted or substituted ester, an unsubstituted or substituted alkanol, an unsubstituted or substituted alkanoic acid, an unsubstituted or substituted thioester, an unsubstituted or substituted

thioether, an unsubstituted or substituted amine, an unsubstituted or substituted mono- or dialkylamide, an substituted or unsubstituted alkylene amide, an unsubstituted or unsubstituted alkyleneamine or an alkyleneguanidine group; or

$R^{1a}$  and  $R^{1b}$ , together with the nitrogen atom to which  $R^{1a}$  and  $R^{1b}$  are attached, form an amino acid residue.

2. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein  $R^4$  is H and  $R'$  together with the nitrogen to which  $R'$  is attached form an  $\alpha$ - amino acid residue.

3. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein  $R^4$  is H and  $R'$  together with the nitrogen to which  $R'$  is attached form an amino acid residue obtained from alanine, arginine, asparagine, aspartic acid, cysteine, glutamine, glutamic acid, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, praline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine or valine.

4. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein  $R^2$  is an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl or aryl group, an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy or ester group, an unsubstituted or substituted alkanol or alkanoic acid, an unsubstituted or substituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  thioether, an unsubstituted or substituted amine, an unsubstituted or substituted alkylamide or alkylene amide or an alkyleneguanidine group.

5. Canceled.

6. Canceled.

7. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein  $R^4$  ~~and~~ or ~~X form a~~ is hydrogen-bond.

8. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein X is H, OR, SR or

NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>d</sup>

9-12. Canceled.

13. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein X<sup>2</sup>, X<sup>3</sup> and X<sup>4</sup> are each independently H.

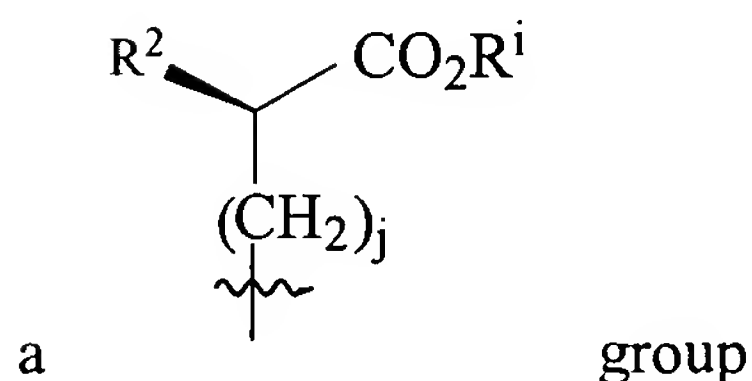
14. Canceled.

15. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R<sup>1a</sup> and R<sup>1b</sup> are each independently H, H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl ~~or an unsubstituted or substituted aryl group~~.

16. Canceled.

17. Canceled.

18. (Previously presented) The compound according to Claim 1 where R' is



wherein j is 0; R<sup>i</sup> is H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkyl; and

R<sup>2</sup> is an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl or aryl group, an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy or ester group, an unsubstituted or substituted alkanol or alkanoic acid, an unsubstituted or substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> thioether, an unsubstituted or substituted amine, an unsubstituted or substituted alkylamide or alkylene amide or an alkyleneguanidine group.

19. Canceled.

20. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein n is 0.

21. Canceled.

22. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R<sup>4</sup> is H and X is a hydrogen bond acceptor group.

22. Canceled.

23-33. Canceled.

The following claims are new:

34. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

35. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 2 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

36. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 3 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

37. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 4 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

38. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 7 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

39. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 8 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

40. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 13 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

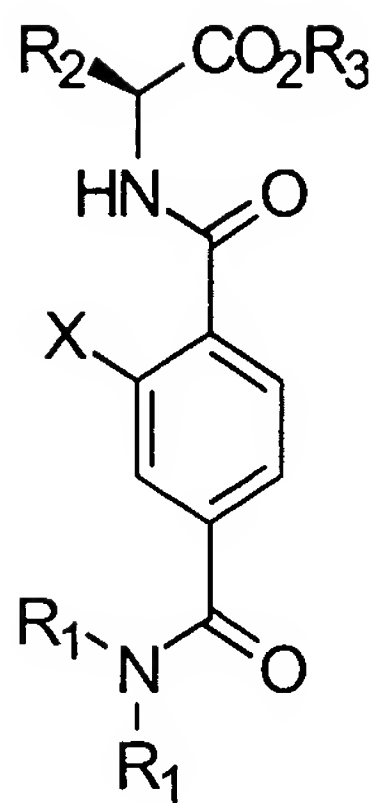
41. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 15 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

42. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 18 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

43. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 20 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

44. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 22 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

45. (New) A compound according to claim 1 having the chemical structure:



Where each  $R_1$  is i-propyl, X is O-i-propyl,  $R_2$  is iso-butyl and  $R_3$  is methyl.

46. (New) ) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 45 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.